

## **MDCH BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PROCESS USED TO PRODUCE THE PROPOSED WEIGHTS**

- 1. There is a list of diagnoses that have varying weights to be counted for open heart surgery. Is it just primary discharge diagnosis or any diagnosis that is listed in discharge?**

*Several Things:*

- Each open heart discharge is assigned to only 1 category.*
- There are 6 diagnostic categories, each defined by a unique set of ICD-9-CM codes.*
- The 1st step in the methodology requires that only the principal diagnosis be used to assign a discharge to 1 of the 6 primary groups. All discharges assigned using the Principal Dx will then be removed from subsequent assignment methods.*
- The first through 4th secondary diagnoses are then utilized for grouping. HOWEVER, this must be done in sequence - Valves 1st, Congenital 2nd, and so on. Once a discharge is assigned to a group it is removed from subsequent assignment cycles.*
- After a search of the 1st four secondary Dx have been completed then the "OTHER Dx" codes (first through 4th secondary diagnoses only) are examined for possible assignment.*
- The categories are then placed in descending order by weight*
- NOTE: The Pediatric methodology is similar, but only has 2 groups: congenital & "other."*

- 2. Is it every time a person is discharged from a given hospital or is it just once a year? (People with these diseases/diagnosis are admitted frequently)**

*Every discharge is "unique" and would be counted.*

- 3. If a person is discharged from two different hospitals with the same diagnosis would that person be counted in both hospitals counts?**

*The answer is yes.*